

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
assigning users to a set of users that exchange status messages with one another;
registering ~~a subscription~~ subscriptions for a conference data stream with a content based messaging (CBM) network to define a sub-set of users of the set of users, the sub-set of users including fewer users than the set of users;
~~receiving messages corresponding to the subscription for the conference data stream from the CBM network;~~
presenting the status messages to ~~a user~~ every user of the set of users;
generating input data using an input device;
publishing the input data as a conference message that is only received by users of the sub-set of users via the conference data stream;
determining if any ~~participants~~ users of the sub-set of users are subscribed to the conference data stream;
halting publishing of the ~~input data~~ conference message via the conference data stream, if it is determined that no ~~participants~~ users of the sub-set of users are subscribed to the conference data stream;
receiving information that ~~a new participant~~ users of the sub-set of users have ~~has been~~ subscribed to the conference data stream; and
restarting publishing of the ~~input data~~ conference message that is only received by users of the sub-set of users via the conference data stream based on receiving the information.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~presenting the conference message messages to the user~~ includes presenting video data ~~to the user~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~presenting the~~ conference message ~~messages to the user~~ includes ~~presenting~~ audio data ~~to the user~~.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~presenting the~~ conference message ~~messages to the user~~ includes ~~presenting~~ audio and video data ~~to the user~~.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein presenting the messages to the user~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising assembling the received messages into streaming video data and presenting the streaming video data only to users of the sub-set of users ~~to the user~~.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein presenting the messages to the user~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising assembling the received messages into streaming audio data and presenting the streaming audio data only to users of the sub-set of users ~~to the user~~.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein presenting the messages to the user~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising assembling the received messages into streaming audio and video data and presenting the streaming audio and video data only to users of the sub-set of users ~~to the user~~.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein presenting the messages to the user~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising converting received messages from a real time transport protocol to a format required by the Java Media Framework (JMF) to present streaming audio and/or video data only to users of the sub-set of users ~~to the user~~.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising initiating a conference by inviting a ~~participant~~ user connected to the CBM network to join the conference.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising initiating a conference by inviting one or more ~~participants~~ users connected to the CBM network to join the conference

and subscribing to the conference data stream of a content based messaging CBM network associated with each ~~participant~~ user.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein initiating a conference by inviting one or more ~~participants~~ users connected to the CBM network to join the conference further comprises selecting the one or more ~~participants~~ users from a contact list of identifiers associated with each ~~participant~~ user.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising publishing a status of ~~the each~~ each user to the CBM network.

14. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a user interface configured to:

present status messages to a user every user of a set of users,

generate input data; and

a messaging infrastructure configured to:

assign users to the set of users, the set of users exchanging status messages with one another;

register a-subscription ~~subscriptions~~ for a conference data stream with a content based messaging (CBM) network to define a sub-set of users of the set of users, the sub-set of users including fewer users than the set of users,

~~receive the messages corresponding to the subscription for the conference data stream from the CBM network;~~

publish the input data as a conference message that is only received by users of the sub-set of users via the conference data stream,

determine if any ~~participants~~ users of the sub-set of users are subscribed to the conference data stream,

halt publishing of the ~~input data~~ conference message via the conference data stream, if it is determined that no ~~participants~~ users of the sub-set of users are subscribed to the conference data stream,

receive information that ~~a new participant~~ users of the sub-set of users ~~has~~ been subscribed to the conference data stream, and

restart publishing of the ~~input data~~ conference message that is only received by users of the sub-set of users via the conference data stream based on receiving the information

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the conference messages include one of video data, audio data, or a combination of video and audio data.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 further comprising two or more client devices configured to generate the subscriptions and to receive the conference messages and present the conference messages to a user of the sub-set of users ~~participant~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein each client device is configured to assemble the received messages into streaming video data and to present the streaming video data to the user of the sub-set of users ~~participant~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein each client device is configured to assemble the received messages into streaming audio data and to present the streaming audio data to the user of the sub-set of users ~~participant~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein each client device is configured to assemble the received messages into streaming audio and video data and to present the streaming audio and video data to the user of the sub-set of users ~~participant~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein each client device is configured to convert the received conference messages from a real time transport protocol to a format

required by the Java Media Framework (JMF) to present streaming audio and video data to the user of the sub-set of users participant.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein each client device is configured to receive an invitation to join the conference and to subscribe to a conference data stream of a content based messaging (CBM) network associated with each user of the sub-set of users conference-participant.

22. - 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a machine readable medium, the computer program product comprising instructions that, when read by a machine, operate to cause a data processing apparatus to cause a processor to:

assign users to the set of users, the set of users exchanging status messages with one another;

register a-subscription subscriptions for a conference data stream with a content based messaging (CBM) network to define a sub-set of users of the set of users, the sub-set of users including fewer users than the set of users;

receive messages corresponding to the subscription for the conference data stream from the CBM network;

present the status messages to a-user every user of the set of users;

generate input data using an input device;

publish the input data as a conference message that is only received by users of the sub-set of users via the conference data stream;

determine if any participants users of the sub-set of users are subscribed to the conference data stream;

halt publishing of the input-data conference message via the conference data stream, if it is determined that no participants users of the sub-set of users are subscribed to the conference data stream;

receive information that ~~a new participant has been~~ users of the sub-set of users have subscribed to the conference data stream; and

restart publishing of the ~~input data~~ conference message that is only received by users of the sub-set of users via the conference data stream based on receiving the information.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 32 wherein the conference messages include video or audio data.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising instructions to assemble the received conference messages into streaming video data for presentation to ~~the~~ a user of the sub-set of users.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising instructions to assemble the received conference messages into streaming audio data for presentation to ~~the~~ a user of the sub-set of users.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising instructions to assemble the received conference messages into streaming audio and video data for presentation to ~~the~~ a user of the sub-set of users.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising instructions to convert received conference messages from a real time transport protocol to a format required by the Java Media Framework (JMF) to present streaming audio and/or video data to ~~the~~ a user of the sub-set of users.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising instructions to initiate a conference by inviting a ~~participant~~ user connected to the CBM network to join the conference.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 38 further comprising instructions to subscribe to a conference data stream of a content based messaging CBM network associated with each participant user of the sub-set of users.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 32 further comprising instructions to publish conference messages associated with the conference to the CBM network.

41. (Cancelled)